



Press Release

Share a glass of red with Puccini's lovers

Puccini loved women. His operatic heroines of Tosca, Madama Butterfly and Mimì are what legends are made of – but so far little has been told about what – or more importantly who – inspired these passionate women of opera.

In this, the 150th Anniversary of Puccini's death the silence will finally be broken. Over two very special afternoons, three of Puccini's lovers will share their stories of lust, romance and betrayal, and of the man they all loved.

It was not easy enticing them to Australia, and even more difficult encouraging them to speak publicly about Puccini. The only agreed on the proviso that the setting would be intimate and relaxed. Melbourne's 'Toff in Town', set in the heart of Melbourne's CBD, was chosen for its cosy, salon setting, and easy access for audience members.

When asked what format the shows will take, the women wouldn't be drawn into being categorised. *"It's part conversation, part recital, and features nine of the most beautiful arias ever composed by man"*.

Lyric-soprano and long-time lover of Puccini's music, Vanessa West, portrays sopranos Maria Jeritza, Rose Ader and Mrs Puccini in her 60 minute one-woman-show. Also written by Vanessa West, *Puccini's Women* features Associate Dr David Kram and directed by Melbourne's pre-eminent opera director, Cameron Menzies.

Escape Melbourne's winter and join with other Puccini lovers for a lazy Sunday afternoon of fine wine, cheese and Puccini's Women.

To arrange an interview or obtain images please contact Vanessa West on 0409 129 893 or visit vanessawest.com.au

Dates – Sunday 27 April and Sunday 4 May, 5pm for 5:30pm show
Venue – Toff in Town, 2nd Floor, Curtin House, 252 Swanston St, Melbourne
Tickets - \$20 presale/\$25 on door/Group discount for 8 or more applies
Bookings – Buy online www.thetoffintown.com, or call 03 9427 9198.